

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



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Schauer's Successful in Fight for Consumer Help for Home Heating Costs *Schauer's resolution headed to full Senate*

LANSING—State Senator Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) today continued his fight for home heating assistance for the poor and elderly. Schauer today testified in support of his resolution asking Congress to provide additional funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The resolution was passed out of committee and now moves to the full Senate for approval.

“The need for action is dire,” said Schauer. “If the federal government doesn’t even hear from legislators on the predicament of our poor and elderly, who will be the voice for these vulnerable citizens?”

Last week, Schauer called on the chair of the Senate Energy & Technology Committee to move two energy resolutions he sponsored; one calls for federal action to help low income and elderly consumers pay their heating bills and the other asks the President to address the exorbitant gas prices consumers have been facing in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Today, the Senate Technology and Energy Committee heard testimony on Schauer’s LIHEAP resolution.

“I’m simply glad we are finally seeing action on home heating costs,” said Schauer. “It’s too bad the Bush Administration is ignoring needs of the poor and elderly, but hopefully our message will be heard.”

Schauer explained that time is running out for one state level program. The Winter Protection Plan protects senior and low-income customers of MPSC- regulated natural gas and electric companies, rural electric cooperatives, and alternative electric suppliers from electric or natural gas service shut-off and high utility payments between November 1 and March 31. Eligible citizens participating in Winter Protection are not required to make specific monthly payments between November 1 and March 31. The protection period ends March 31, and participants must pay off any money owed in installments between April and November.

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Mark Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.